

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
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R 171734Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6872
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: LABOR SITUATION UPDATE

SUMMARY: STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS CONTINUE OR WILL SOON
COMMENCE IN THE METAL AND PRINTING INDUSTRIES. TALKS
HAVE BEEN RESUMED BETWEEN THE PRINTING UNION AND
EMPLOYERS, BUT NO RESUMPTION HAS BEEN HINTED AT IN THE
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METAL INDUSTRY. THE PUBLIC SERVICE UNION (OETV) ENTERS
NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES
TODAY. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT APPEALED OVER NATION-WIDE
TV FOR ALL PARTIES TO SHOW RESTRAINT AND DISPATCHED
HIS CHIEF TROUBLE SHOOTER STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI
TO CONSULT BOTH SIDES IN THE PRINTERS' DISPUTE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE METAL STRIKE CONTINUES IN NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG (NBW) WITH NO INDICATION YET THAT IT WILL SPREAD TO NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW). THE METAL EMPLOYERS ARE PLANNING TO BEGIN A LOCKOUT ON MONDAY, MARCH 20 IN NBW AT ALL METAL FIRMS WITH MORE THAN 1000 EMPLOYEES. A DGB SOURCE TOLD LABATT THAT SHUTDOWN OF THAT MAGNITUDE IN NBW WOULD COST THE I.G. METALL UNION DM 80 MILLION PER WEEK IN STRIKE BENEFITS. A SIMILAR SHUTDOWN IN NRW IS ESTIMATED TO COST DM 120 MILLION PER WEEK. THE STRIKE FUND OF I.G. METALL IS THOUGHT TO CONTAIN ABOUT DM 500 MILLION.

2. TALKS HAVE NOW RESUMED IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY DISPUTE WITH FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PRESIDENT JOSEF STINGL NOW ACTING AS OFFICIAL MEDIATOR. SOME DGB SOURCES BELIEVE THAT STINGL MAY BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DELIBERATIONS GENEROUS OFFERS OF SUPPORT FROM HIS ORGANIZATION THAT COULD HELP TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE INTRODUCTION OF RATIONALIZATION MEASURES IN THE INDUSTRY WHICH WILL RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF JOBS. ABOUT 8,000 TYPESETTER POSITIONS ARE AT STAKE. THE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY HAS SHUT DOWN SOME 327 NEWSPAPERS OF THE 350 IN THE FRG. NORMALLY, ABOUT 19 MILLION NEWSPAPERS PER DAY ARE PRODUCED. NOW BARELY ONE MILLION OFFICIAL USE

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LION COPIES ARE APPEARING DAILY, MOSTLY IN SMALLER CITIES.

3. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN TV BROADCAST MARCH 15 NOTED THAT STRIKES WERE LEGITIMATE PART OF INDUSTRIAL SCENE IN THE FRG AND THAT COUNTRY'S RECORD OF LABOR STABILITY WAS ONE OF BEST AMONG INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES. HE HOPED THAT SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE REACHED IN THE METAL AND PRINTING INDUSTRY SHORTLY, BUT SAID IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL CHANGE THAT COULD BE REACHED BY STRIKES. SCHMIDT THEN CONCENTRATED ON THE DISPUTE IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY WHICH WAS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS SINCE THE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT AFFECTED THE BASIC RIGHT OF EVERY FRG CITIZEN TO HAVE INFORMATION. HE HOPED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE SINCE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATION HAD NOT YET BEEN EXHAUSTED.

4. SCHMIDT MET WITH DGB PRESIDENT VETTER THE NIGHT BEFORE TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT UNREST. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS FROM PRINTERS UNION PRESIDENT MAHLEIN

THAT HE, SCHMIDT, INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE DISPUTE, HE
SENT HIS TRUSTED AIDE STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI TO
TALK WITH BOTH SIDES. HE PERSUADED THE PARTIES TO
START NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN WITH STINGL AS THE MAN IN
THE MIDDLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRINTING, LABOR STRIKES, METALS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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